

Lakeland Correctional Facility's poinsettias make their way to the Governor's office



Bob Kolassa and Governor Granholm

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Poinsettias grown in the horticulture program at Lakeland Correctional Facility wound up in the offices of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm this year. Horticulture instructor Bob Kolassa delivered two dozen of the holiday flowers to the Governor and her staff.

Forty-eight inmates at the Lakeland program grow about 400 poinsettias annually. The flowers are delivered to local nursing homes and families in Branch and Hillsdale counties selected by the Family Independence Agency.

"The horticulture program covers all aspects of horticulture," said Kolassa. "We have greenhouse, crop production, landscape design, installation and maintenance, and integrated pest management."

Each year 1,000 flats of annuals and perennials are grown for use at DOC facilities, city parks, the Michigan welcome center and community organizations.

In addition, landscape products are grown for the Habitat for Humanity homes and a large portion of vegetables are donated to local food banks.

"This is a very successful program," said Lakeland Warden Carol Howes. "The plants and flowers brighten our cities and parks, and the prisoners learn a skill they can take with them." **F.Y.I.**

Muskegon Correctional Facility provides poinsettias and more

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ike the Lakeland facility, the Muskegon Correctional Facility's (MCF) horticulture classes are providing a career and technical education in horticulture to offenders.

The plants grown at the facility are distributed to many area organizations.

"While working with the plants, the prisoners learn patience, charity, respect for others and an appreciation of nature," said Barbara Arthur, MCF horticulture instructor.

This year 225 poinsettias were propagated from cuttings and grown at the facility by the 90 prisoners involved in the facility's horticulture and landscape maintenance classes.

The flowers brightened the halls and rooms of the University Park Nursing Center, the McCauley Place Nursing Center and the Brookhaven Nursing Center. Poinsettias also decorated the MCF lobby, visiting room and offices.

In addition to the poinsettias, 250 African violets were propagated from cuttings and grown this year. Many of those were also donated to University Park Nursing Center. Every month since 2002, an average of 12 African violet plants accompany signed birthday cards from MCF Jaycees to residents of a local nursing home for the residents' monthly birthday celebrations.

Along with the seasonal plants, the MCF horticulture program grows landscape plants from seeds and cuttings for Prison Build and the Habitat for Humanity partnership. In 2003, 670 landscape plants were shipped for the program, in 2004 a total of 368 landscape plants were grown and delivered and hundreds more are being grown for 2005.



Barbara Arthur, MCF horticulture instructor, gets poinsettias ready for distribution to area nursing homes.



In a partnership with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, MCF grew 700 perennial wild blue lupine plants which is the sole food source for the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly caterpillar. Volunteers from Pheasants Forever planted the native wildflowers as part of a habitat restoration project in Allegan County.

One hundred flats of annuals were donated to area nonprofit groups and other MDOC facilities. Over 600 flats of flowers were planted outdoors at MCF this year and plants from the program adorned many functions at the facility.

In addition to the plants, the horticulture program provided 885 pounds of assorted vegetables to local food pantries and meal programs including Every Woman's Place,

Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter and the Main Rescue Mission Supper House at the Mission for Area People.

"The horticulture courses are an extremely productive vocational program," said Warden John Cason. "We can brighten up the day for nursing home residents and provide vegetables for the needy while prisoners learn a skill they can use when they return to the community." *F.Y.I.*

Offenders clean more than 6,000 miles of Michigan roadways

Nearly 13,000 offenders under the supervision of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) collected over 50,000 bags of trash and debris from more than 6,000 miles of Michigan roadways this year during Project C.L.E.A.N.

Project C.L.E.A.N., which runs from April through September, utilizes minimum-security prisoners housed in the state's correctional system and offenders on probation or parole to clean up Michigan's highways, roadways and neighborhoods.

"This project continues to be a tremendous success," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "It gives offenders who may have caused destruction and harm to our communities an opportunity to build up their community in a positive way."

The statewide program was a collaborative effort among the MDOC, local community corrections agencies and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). MDOT selected the areas to clean, maintained the safety of the work sites, provided the trash bags and collected the trash bags once they were filled.

During the summer-long program, offender crews cleaned roadways and neighborhoods from southeastern Michigan to the western Upper Peninsula.

In order to participate in the program, offenders must be on probation or parole or must: be classified as minimum security (Level I), have no history of arson or sex offenses, have served half their minimum sentence, be within 12 months of their earliest release date and not be sentenced as a habitual offender.

"Project C.L.E.A.N. is a collective effort that brings together state and local agencies to perform the vital task of cleaning up Michigan's roads," said MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso. "This valuable program helps offenders build a positive work ethic and assists in making Michigan a cleaner and more inviting place for our citizens and visitors."

The 2004 initiative collected 13,000 additional bags of garbage and cleaned more than double the miles of the 2003 effort. *J.Y.J.*



Prisoner crews clean up roadways across Michigan.

Verlene McLemore honored



From left: Verlene McLemore, Representative Joe Hune and Senator Valde Garcia at the awards ceremony.

Verlene McLemore, life skills, pre-release and Parole Violators Diversion Program instructor at Camp Brighton, recently received an award from Livingston County Workforce Development Council at their annual awards ceremony. McLemore has been with the department since 1977.

McLemore was cited as the Outstanding Workforce Development Professional for her positive contribution to the community as she coordinates services and opportunities for re-leased felons.

"There is not another corrections system in the country that has this connection with the business community in which they reside, and this has been by Verlene's initiative," said Pam McConeghy, Director of Operations at the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce.

continued

Time to sign up for the 2005 Law Enforcement Torch Run Team

Laura Keiser named Team Captain of the Year

Laura Keiser, RGC Dental Clinic, was named the 2004 Team Captain of the Year by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for her work organizing a basketball tournament last March as well as her involvement in various state functions throughout the year.

Volunteer participation is crucial to the success of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics. Many staff members contributed their time and talent as well as financial assistance to this exceptional cause.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported our fund-raising events for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics this year," said Keiser, Central Route Team Co-Captain 2004. "Because of you, we were able to raise a grand total of \$11,424."

"Special thanks goes out to the following staff at RGC who donated desserts and side dishes for our cookouts: Linda Negendank, ADW Linda Verlin, Becky Stevick, Kathy Summers, Michelle VanSumeren, Sgt. Mike Finch, Sgt. Bob Johnson, Captain Shirley Lantis, Nancy Austin, and C/O Tara Gerou," said Kathy Pittelkow, RGC Team Captain. "In addition I would like to recognize Fran Wallace, Barb Conde, ADW Linda Verlin, Nyan Klavon, Becky Stevick, Michelle VanSumeren, and Sgt. Steve Shepherd who helped us at one or more of our fund-raising cookouts."

MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso has once again approved staff participation in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Law enforcement agencies across Michigan raised more than \$360,000 for Special Olympics this past year. It is the commitment of these men and women that make it possible for over 12,400 athletes in Michigan to participate in Special Olympic competitions.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has had a very positive and ongoing relationship with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, providing a run team that participates in special fundraising and other activities. In 2004, the MDOC team was a core member in the 18-member Law Enforcement Team that relayed 750+ miles across the state during Torch Run Week. The goal of the Relay Team and the MDOC Run Team is to raise awareness of the Torch Run and Special Olympics, and to raise funds for Special Olympics Michigan.

The department is now seeking volunteers for the 2005 MDOC Run Team which will be made up of staff from all areas of the Department. Two members of previous MDOC Run Teams will serve as leaders of the team and new members, with the support of their administrators, will participate in the seven-day event. The event will require a seven-day commitment. Those persons chosen to participate will be permitted administrative leave for their regular work hours (up to 40 hours) while they participate in Law Enforcement Torch Run events.

Any department employee interested in participating as a member of the MDOC Run Team is encouraged to express their interest in writing, through the appropriate chain of command, to Norma Killough, Administrative Assistant, CFA. Letters of interest should be submitted no later than January 5, 2005. *F.Y.I.*

Verlene McLemore honored

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Through her initiative, Livingston County Women's Resource Center, Prison Fellowship Ministries, BSJ Seminars, Livingston County Michigan Works! and the Greater Brighton Chamber of Commerce Women Business Network volunteers have positively impacted many women at Camp Brighton in their preparation for a successful community and employment re-entry.

"Verlene McLemore is a dedicated professional," said Warden Clarice Stovall. "She challenges the prisoners and teaches them the skills they need to be successful when they are released." *F.Y.I.*

Ojibway shops with a cop



First row: Steve Lehto, Joe Maslanka, Sheldon Ewers, Dion DeFavero. Second row: Eugene Nieminen, Doug Bull, Leone Halberg, Bonny McIntire, Bev Ahonen, Scott Kellett, Kris Taskila. Third row: Lou Boetto, Kevin Grace, Dave McRae, Russ Hearn, Joe Cayer

Sixteen staff members from the Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) participated in the Shop with a Cop program sponsored by a local radio station in Ironwood.

The program matches children with local law enforcement officials to provide the youngsters with an opportunity to Christmas shop for their family members.

The annual event encourages local youth to build a better relationship with law enforcement and to improve on some of the negative feelings associated with “cops.”

The funds are provided by donations from local businesses and organizations. The OCF Employee Club donated \$250 to the event this year.

The day starts at 8:30 at the local Burger King restaurant where the children and

their law enforcement buddies meet. Burger King donates breakfast to all participants.

From there, the group moves to the local mall where they complete their shopping. They then take a bus to the Ironwood Memorial Building where they have a chance to meet with Santa and eat free pizza donated by Little Caesars. The officers then assist the children in wrapping their gifts.

However, not all the officers excel at some of the skills required for this project. When the officers went back to help wrap the gifts, it was obvious that some of them had never had to use this ability before. CTO Kevin Grace helped his buddy wrap the first present. After they were done, the boy looked at it and told Kevin, “That’s alright, I’ll do the rest.”

“OCF employees involved in the event were overwhelmed with the success of the experience and are currently making plans for additional fundraisers to increase the donations for next year,” said Warden Terry Sherman. *F.Y.I.*

Help us keep our Web site current

While visiting www.michigan.gov/corrections, have you noticed a link that’s not working or information that could use updating?

A Web site is always a work in progress and we welcome your input. Please e-mail your discoveries to Gail Madziar at madziagl@michigan.gov and we’ll get to work with any necessary revisions.

Wrestlers raise funds for Toys for Tots



From left: The Bounty Hunter, The Milwaukee Mauler, Nick "Chainsaw" Monahan, Phil "Nitro" Monahan, NWO Sting, The Patriot, (kneeling) The Asian Sensation and ARUS Sandra Monahan

Championship International Wrestling (CIW) hosted a Toys for Tots fundraiser in Adrian. The event was held in memory of Alyssa Elizardo, the daughter of Gus Harrison Correctional Facility storekeeper Bill Elizardo. Alyssa died tragically seven years ago in an automobile accident at nine months of age.

This is the seventh year in a row that CIW has hosted the fundraiser in her memory. To help raise money for the event, which included former WCW Wrestling superstars NWO Sting and the Patriot, both Gus Harrison and Parr Highway correctional facilities hosted a luncheon, catered by Sunnyside cafe and organized by storekeeper Phil Monahan, who also competes professionally as Nitro in the professional wrestling ranks, and ARUS Sandra Monahan. The turnout for the luncheon was excellent, and both facilities collected a large donation of toys.

The event was standing room only. In addition to raising several hundred dollars to buy toys for Toys for Tots, two huge boxes of toys were donated by fans at the event. The toys will be distributed to families in Lenawee County. Attendees were also treated to autographs and pictures of the wrestling stars.

"Every year this is a great event and I would like to thank our employee club for their large donation and all the employees who donated toys and attended the luncheon," said Phil Monahan. *F.Y.I.*

Jackson Parole/CRP Office makes the holiday brighter



This year the Jackson Parole/CRP Office adopted two families through the Salvation Army. Both families consist of a single mother and one child. Using individual donations and the office's casual day funds the entire office staff participated purchasing leap pads, clothing, stuffed animals, sleds and disposable cameras.

Secretary Marcia Parsons and word processing assistant Vicki Huscio crocheted hats, scarves and mittens for each family member. The group also provided all the ingredients for each family to have a wonderful Christmas dinner including a certificate for a ham that they can pick up at Kroger.

In addition to the families, Jackson Parole adopted two children through the Grandparents and Other Relatives as Parents Program in Jackson. The program has each child make a wish list. Agent Cheryl Evans volunteered to do the shopping using staff donations. *F.Y.I.*

Saginaw Officers receive awards



From left: Warden Blaine Lafler, RPA James MacMeekin, C/O Roland Price, C/O Jeremy Hulburt, C/O Stephen Cooklin, C/O Jerry Zajac, Deputy Warden Erick Balcarcel and kneeling, Sgt Scott Ferris.

RPA James MacMeekin presented five Officers from the Saginaw Correctional Facility with Lifesaving Awards for their participation in saving the life of a prisoner.

The officers responded to a prisoner in distress. Working together the group radioed for assistance, administered the AED and continued CPR until the prisoner began breathing on his own and could be transported to a local medical center.

F.Y.I.

Rosanne Leland named MDOC Traumatic Incident Stress Management Coordinator



Rosanne Leland

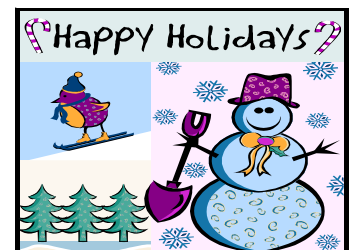
Rosanne Leland, Work/Life Services Coordinator, has been named Traumatic Incident Stress Management Coordinator for the Department of Corrections. She can be reached at (517) 373-7637. All requests for TISM services should be directed to her.

TISM is a statewide program that provides specialized services to State of Michigan employees who have been exposed to a traumatic incident.

Events that are sudden and unexpected such as violence, suicide, or an accidental death or injury or those that are out of the ordinary could require the use of TISM services.

"This is an important service for our employees," said Leland. "We'll be there to provide assistance if the need should arise."

Under the leadership of the Employee Service Program (ESP), located in the Office of the State Employer, a certified TISM team may assist employees with on-site support, one-on-one individualized services or group services such as defusing or debriefing sessions. *F.Y.I.*



Cooperative efforts lead to the arrest of three armed-robbery suspects

Adrian Police were assisted by John Blackman from the Region II Absconder Recovery Unit in identifying a parolee who was a suspect in an armed robbery in the Adrian area. Investigator Blackman's investigation revealed that the suspect was on parole through the Lawton Place parole office in Detroit. The parolee had requested permission to relocate to another state and was awaiting approval of his paperwork.

Contact was made with the Lawton Parole Office, requesting that they call the parolee and instruct him to report to the office. Supervisor Steve Brannon and PA Shirley Ellis-Gailliard made the arrangements for Wallace to report at 8:30 am. on October 1, 2004.

The Adrian Police Detective Team, ARU Investigators John Blackman, Richard Taylor and Tom Ballor, along with Officers from the Detroit FAST team were on hand to take the parolee into custody when he reported as directed. He was arrested without incident. Reporting along with the suspect was a second suspect in the robbery. A third suspect turned himself in later that same day when he learned police were looking for him.

The three are currently lodged in the Lenawee County jail on charges of dangerous weapons-carrying with unlawful intent, assault with intent to rob while armed and robbery armed. **7.4.1.**

Facilities gather Toys for Tots



Oaks Correctional Facility is once again collecting gifts for their annual Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens drive.

The program is coordinated locally through Five-CAP and the coordinator at Oaks is Warden's Secretary Tenely Cross.

The group will provide gifts for 150 kids again this year.

7.4.1.



Throughout the year, staff at the St. Louis and Mid-Michigan correctional facilities collected \$829 from casual days. The money purchased toys for Toys for Tots in Gratiot County. **7.4.1.**

From left front row: Lia Gulick (Business Manager SLF/STF) and Ann Hull (Record Office Supervisor SLF); second row: Joe Willsey (Teacher SLF), Linda Moffett (Dept. Tech. SLF) and Kathy Wiles (Word Processor SLF); third row: Julius Mayfield (Classification Director SLF), Melinda Bennett (Mail Clerk SLF) and Warden Paul Renico



New Parole Board Members named

Director Patricia L. Caruso today announced the appointment of Artina Tinsley Hardman of Detroit, Enid Livingston of Birmingham and Stephen H. DeBoer of Hastings to the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Parole Board. Current Parole Board member Miguel Berrios of Grand Rapids was reappointed for a second term.

The three new members are part of a 10-member board responsible for considering parole for eligible offenders. The appointments are effective January 30, 2005 and the new members will serve through September 30, 2008.

Artina Tinsley Hardman is currently serving her third term in the Michigan House of Representatives representing the Third House District. Rep. Tinsley Hardman has served as chairwoman of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus for the past three terms.

Enid Livingston is an attorney in private practice. She specializes in writing appellate briefs and trial briefs and appearing for argument before the Michigan appellate courts as well as various Circuit Courts.

Stephen H. DeBoer is currently the Barry County Sheriff. Before serving as Sheriff, DeBoer was a First Lieutenant in command of a Michigan State Police Post.

The new members replace William Slaughter, Margie McNutt and George Lellis whose terms have expired. *J.Y.J.*

